(c) by when it is proposed to be brought forward in the Parliament?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY): (a) to (c) Finalisation of the Bill on broadcasting is at an advanced stage. The proposed Bill would, inter alia, provide for operation and regulation of private broadcasting in the country. The Bill is likely to be introduced during the current session of Parliament.

Threatening of Agitation by Doordarshan and Akashwani Employees

3313. SHRI SHIV CHARAM SINGH:
SHRI GOVINDRAM MIRI:

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether technical employees of Doordarshan and Akashwani have threatened to launch agitation;

(b) if so, the details of their grievances;

(c) whether any bilateral negotiations have since been held;

(d) if so, the detailed outcome; and

(e) if not the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The grievances mainly relate to the recommendations of the Pay Commission, payment of arrears, etc.

(c) to (e) The representatives of Technical Employees have had series of discussions at various levels in the Ministry. The representatives were promised that their demands will be considered sympathetically.

Private Investment for Channel 3

3314. SHRI SATISH PRADHAN: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Doordarshan is seeking approval of Government for private investment of Rs. Thirty crores for Channel 3; and

(b) if so, the details of the proposal finalised/under consideration and likely impact thereof?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY): (a) and (b) No. Sir, Government is only examining the feasibility of obtaining private funding participation to expand the terrestrial network of Doordarshan's DD3 channel in order to enable a larger segment of Indian viewers gain access to three free to air terrestrial channels offering a wide variety of programmes. The specific modalities in this regard are yet to be decided.

Assessment of Government Media in Projecting the National and International News

3315. SHRIMATI KAMLA SINHA: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have made any critical assessment of Government media in projecting the national and international news and its performance as compared to international standards and other news agencies like BBC;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) what steps are contemplated by Government to bring professionalism in the media and to raise the standard of the news services?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY): (a) to (c) Even though no

specific study has been undertaken in the recent past, from time to time steps have been taken to improve the news gathering and editing capability of the news media so that it can come up to international standards. Review of the capability of the Government media in projecting national and international news is a continuous process and suitable steps are taken periodically to bring professionalism in the news media subject to availability of funds, personnel and inter-se priorities within two electronic media. Acquisition of latest hardware, training of news personnel, more visual inputs, improvement in the style of presentation are some of the measures being contemplated.

Introduction of 24 Hour Doordarshan Service on Low Power Transmitters

3316. SHRI K. M. KHAN: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have been requested to introduce 24 hours Doordarshan service on low power transmitter centres of country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government propose to take decision on these requests early;

(d) if so, the details thereof and names of States and Union Territories to be benefited from such decision in the first phase; and

(e) whether Government propose to cover Andhra Pradesh in the first phase?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY): (a) to (e) representations have been received from time to time from various quarters for extension of telecast time on Doordarshan. However, there is no proposal, at present, to start 24 hours Doordarshan service from Low Power TV Centres operating in the country.

Setting up of TV Transmitters and AIR Stations in States and U.Ts.

3317. DR. RANBIR SINGH:
SHRI RAM NATH KOVIND:

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the number of projects for setting up of T.V. Transmitters/AIR stations have been undertaken in all States and Territories during the last two financial years;

(b) if so, the details thereof separately in each year State and Union Territory-wise;

(c) whether some of such projects have since been completed or near completion;

(d) if so, the details thereof State and Union Territory-wise with number of the same pending;

(e) whether Government propose to take up such projects in current financial year in Uttar Pradesh; and

(f) if so,the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY): (a) to (f) Information is being collected and will be placed before the House shortly.

Notifying Legal Service Authorities Act, 1987 in Gujarat

3318. SHRI AHMED PATEL: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Legal Service Authorities Act, 1987 has not been notifed in the State of Gujarat which is hampering the free legal aid to poor in the State;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps Government have taken to expeditiously notify the Act in Gujarat to extend free legal aid to the poor of the State?;

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE